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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, September 24, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended September 19 totaled an estimated 19.3 billion ton-miles, 7.8 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 38 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 675.1 billion ton-miles, 1.5 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended September 19 totaled 451,604 cars, 0.1 percent below 1980, but 17.4 percent higher than the preceding holiday week of this year. Compared with last year loadings were up 5.1 percent in the East, but down 3.7 percent in the South and 1.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 16 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal and metallic ores were up 12.6 percent and 35.1 percent respectively.

All of tne 21 groups were up from the preceding holiday week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the holiday week ended September 12 totaled 28,433 cars, down 11.9 percent from the corresponding non-holiday week of 1980, and 52,068 trailers and/or containers, down 10.9 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 37 weeks of the year was 1,199,094 cars, 1.6 percent higher than last year, and 2,169,169 trailers and/or containers, 0.9 percent higher than last year.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 9/19/81:

	Loadings in Week ended September 19, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	27,090	D	6,091	18.4	I	5,582	26.0
Other farm products	4,015	D	244	5.7	I	1,165	40.9
Metallic ores	38,187	I	9,922	35.1	I	3,554	10.3
Coal	134,303	I	15,078	12.6	I	15,550	13.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,928	D	2,691	17.2	I	2,084	19.2
Nonmetallic minerals	14,296	D	1,966	12.1	I	1,839	14.8
Grain mill products	14,907	D	2,617	14.9	I	2,820	23.3
Food and kindred products	15,751	D	2,996	16.0	I	2,388	17.9
Primary forest products	18,333	D	692	3.6	I	3,197	21.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,920	D	2,402	25.8	I	1,690	32.3
Pulp, paper and allied products	19,038	D	1,609	7.8	I	2,702	16.5
Chemicals and allied products	24,933	D	2,043	7.6	I	3,114	14.3
Petroleum products	5,258	D	330	5.9	I	766	17.1
Stone, clay and glass products	13,603	D	2,405	15.0	I	1,836	15.6
Coke	6,667	I	2,359	54.8	I	570	9.3
Metals and products	15,116	I	265	1.8	I	2,229	17.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	14,226	D	2,708	16.0	I	2,928	25.9
Waste and scrap materials	12,109	D	366	2.9	I	2,317	23.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	9,507	D	1,568	14.2	I	1,640	20.8
All other carloads	44,172	I	2,450	5.9	I	8,909	25.3
LCL traffic	245	D	19	7.2	I	79	47.6
Total Cars Loaded	451,604	D	673	0.1	I	66,959	17.4
Corresponding week of 1980	452,277						

	1981	1980		% Change
Total Cars Loaded (38 weeks)	15,906,068	16,492,628	D	3.6
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
37 Weeks cumulative	655.8	647.0	I	1.4
Week ended September 19	19.3	17.9	I	7.8
38 Weeks cumulative	675.1	664.9	I	1.5

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